

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Environmental Preservation Committee

BILL: SB 1610

SPONSOR: Senator Atwater

SUBJECT: Recreational Licenses and Permits

DATE: April 13, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Branning</u>	<u>Kiger</u>	<u>EP</u>	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	<u>GE</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>GA</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill provides for an exemption from recreational hunting and fishing licenses for Florida residents who are members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Reserve Forces, the Florida National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard, or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, either active or retired.

This bill substantially amends s. 372.562, F.S.; and reenacts ss. 372.57(1) and 372.5717(7), F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Section 372.002, F.S., provides that the Legislature recognizes that hunting, fishing, and the taking of game are a valued part of the cultural heritage of Florida and should be forever preserved for Floridians. Further, the Legislature intends that the citizens of Florida have a right to hunt, fish, and take game, subject to the regulations and restrictions prescribed by general law and by s. 9, Art. IV of the State Constitution.

Section 372.57, F.S., generally prohibits the taking of game, freshwater or saltwater fish, or fur-bearing animals in this state without first obtaining a license, permit, or authorization number and paying the fees provided for in ch. 372, F.S. According to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), a *license* allows the bearer to hunt or fish, subject to the terms and conditions of the particular license.¹ A *permit* expands the authority of a license to include authorization to hunt or fish a particular species, or engage in recreational activities in certain areas.² Licenses and permits may be purchased at the FWC, any local tax collector, or any approved subagent. Also, licenses and permits may be purchased on the internet or by calling a

¹ <http://myfwc.com/license/>

² Id.

toll-free number. The fees for licenses and permits are set by statute. Additional processing fees are also authorized, portions of which are retained by the local tax collectors. Surcharges apply for licenses purchased over the internet or by calling the toll-free number.

Section 372.562, F.S., provides for exemptions from the hunting and fishing license provisions for certain persons. One such exemption is for any resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and not stationed in this state, when home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill amends s. 372.562, F.S., to provide an exemption from having to obtain a hunting or fishing license and pay the corresponding fees for any resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Reserve Forces, the Florida National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard, or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, either active or retired upon submission of a current military identification.

Subsection (1) of s. 372.57, F.S., relating to recreational licenses, permits, and authorization numbers and fees, and subsection (7) of s. 372.5717(7), F.S., relating to a hunter safety course, are reenacted.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

This bill would exempt any member of the Armed Forces, National Guard, or Coast Guard who is a resident of Florida from having to obtain a hunting or fishing license and paying the corresponding fees.

B. Private Sector Impact:

As indicated below, approximately 37,208 persons would be eligible for an exempt fishing license and 4,377 persons would be eligible for an exempt hunting license.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The exact impact to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is unknown at this time. It is estimated that of the total estimated number of active and retire military personnel in Florida, 17 percent would probably engage in fishing activities and 2 percent would engage in hunting activities for which a license would be required. Based on these assumptions, the following represents the estimated revenue impact of this bill.

Revenue Impact	License Cost	No. of Participants	Est. Rev. Loss
Freshwater Fishing License	\$12.00	37,208	(\$446,490.33)
Saltwater Fishing License	\$12.00	37,208	(\$446,490.33)
Hunting License	\$11.00	4,377	(\$48,150.92)
Fed. Match-2003 (fishing license)	\$6.88	37,208	(\$255,987.79)
Fed. Match-200 (hunting licenses)	\$6.92	4,377	(\$30,291.30)
Est. Revenue Loss			(\$1,227,410.68)

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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